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Adopted
voice vote

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1350

OFFERED BY MR. OWENS

(Page & line nos. refer to Substitute Amendment)

305, after line 6

Page 298, strike line 20 and all that follows through

line 6 on page 305 and insert the following (and conform
the table of contents accordingly):

1 "SEC. 672. PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTERS.

2 "(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
3 make grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative
4 agreements with, parent organizations to support parent
5 training and information centers to carry out activities
6 under this section.

7 "(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each parent training
8 and information center that receives assistance under this
9 section shall—

10 "(1) provide training and information that
11 meets the training and information needs of parents
12 of children with disabilities living in the area served
13 by the center, particularly underserved parents and
14 parents of children who may be inappropriately iden-
15 tified;

16 "(2) assist parents to understand the avail-
17 ability of, and how to effectively use, procedural
18 safeguards under this Act, including encouraging the



1 use, and explaining the benefits, of alternative meth-
2 ods of dispute resolution, such as the mediation
3 process described in section 615(e)(1) and the vol-
4 untary binding arbitration process described in sec-
5 tion 615(e)(2);

6 “(3) serve the parents of infants, toddlers, and
7 children with the full range of disabilities;

8 “(4) assist parents to—

9 “(A) better understand the nature of their
10 children’s disabilities and their educational and
11 developmental needs;

12 “(B) communicate effectively with per-
13 sonnel responsible for providing special edu-
14 cation, early intervention, and related services;

15 “(C) participate in decisionmaking proc-
16 esses and the development of individualized
17 education programs under part B and individ-
18 ualized family service plans under part C;

19 “(D) obtain appropriate information about
20 the range of options, programs, services, and
21 resources available to assist children with dis-
22 abilities and their families;

23 “(E) understand the provisions of this Act
24 for the education of, and the provision of early



1 intervention services to, children with disabil-
2 ities; and

3 “(F) participate in school reform activities;

4 “(5) in States where the State elects to contract
5 with the parent training and information center,
6 contract with State educational agencies to provide,
7 consistent with clauses (ii) and (iv) of section
8 615(e)(1)(B), individuals who meet with parents to
9 explain the mediation process to them;

10 “(6) network with appropriate clearinghouses
11 and with other national, State, and local organiza-
12 tions and agencies, such as protection and advocacy
13 agencies, that serve parents and families of children
14 with the full range of disabilities; and

15 “(7) annually report to the Secretary on—

16 “(A) the number of parents to whom it
17 provided information and training in the most
18 recently concluded fiscal year; and

19 “(B) the effectiveness of strategies used to
20 reach and serve parents, including underserved
21 parents of children with disabilities.

22 “(c) OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES.—A parent training and
23 information center that receives assistance under this sec-
24 tion may—

1 “(1) provide information to teachers and other
2 professionals who provide special education and re-
3 lated services to children with disabilities;

4 “(2) assist students with disabilities to under-
5 stand their rights and responsibilities under section
6 615(l) on reaching the age of majority; and

7 “(3) assist parents of children with disabilities
8 to be informed participants in the development and
9 implementation of the State's improvement plan
10 under subpart 1.

11 “(d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each applica-
12 tion for assistance under this section shall identify with
13 specificity the special efforts that the applicant will
14 undertake—

15 “(1) to ensure that the needs for training and
16 information of underserved parents of children with
17 disabilities in the area to be served are effectively
18 met; and

19 “(2) to work with community-based organiza-
20 tions.

21 “(e) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
23 at least 1 award to a parent organization in each
24 State, unless the Secretary does not receive an appli-



1 eation from such an organization in each State of
2 sufficient quality to warrant approval.

3 “(2) SELECTION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
4 retary shall select among applications submitted by
5 parent organizations in a State in a manner that en-
6 sures the most effective assistance to parents, in-
7 cluding parents in urban and rural areas, in the
8 State.

9 “(f) QUARTERLY REVIEW.—

10 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(A) MEETINGS.—The board of directors
12 or special governing committee of each organi-
13 zation that receives an award under this section
14 shall meet at least once in each calendar quar-
15 ter to review the activities for which the award
16 was made.

17 “(B) ADVISING BOARD.—Each special gov-
18 erning committee shall directly advise the orga-
19 nization’s governing board of its views and rec-
20 ommendations.

21 “(2) CONTINUATION AWARD.—When an organi-
22 zation requests a continuation award under this sec-
23 tion, the board of directors or special governing com-
24 mittee shall submit to the Secretary a written review
25 of the parent training and information program con-



1 ducted by the organization during the preceding fis-
2 cal year.

3 "(g) DEFINITION OF PARENT ORGANIZATION.—As
4 used in this section, the term 'parent organization' means
5 a private nonprofit organization (other than an institution
6 of higher education) that—

7 "(1) has a board of directors—

8 "(A) the majority of whom are parents of
9 children with disabilities;

10 "(B) that includes—

11 "(i) individuals working in the fields
12 of special education, related services, and
13 early intervention; and

14 "(ii) individuals with disabilities; and

15 "(C) the parent and professional members
16 of which are broadly representative of the popu-
17 lation to be served; or

18 "(2) has—

19 "(A) a membership that represents the in-
20 terests of individuals with disabilities and has
21 established a special governing committee that
22 meets the requirements of paragraph (1); and

23 "(B) a memorandum of understanding be-
24 tween the special governing committee and the
25 board of directors of the organization that

1 clearly outlines the relationship between the
2 board and the committee and the decision-
3 making responsibilities and authority of each.

4 **"SEC. 673. COMMUNITY PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
6 to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements
7 with, local parent organizations to support parent training
8 and information centers that will help ensure that under-
9 served parents of children with disabilities, including low-
10 income parents, parents of children with limited English
11 proficiency, and parents with disabilities, have the training
12 and information they need to enable them to participate
13 effectively in helping their children with disabilities—

14 “(1) to meet developmental goals and, to the
15 maximum extent possible, those challenging stand-
16 ards that have been established for all children; and

17 “(2) to be prepared to lead productive inde-
18 pendent adult lives, to the maximum extent possible.

19 “(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each parent training
20 and information center assisted under this section shall—

21 “(1) provide training and information that
22 meets the training and information needs of parents
23 of children with disabilities proposed to be served by
24 the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement;

1 “(2) carry out the activities required of parent
2 training and information centers under paragraphs
3 (2) through (7) of section 672(b);

4 “(3) establish cooperative partnerships with the
5 parent training and information centers funded
6 under section 672; and

7 “(4) be designed to meet the specific needs of
8 families who experience significant isolation from
9 available sources of information and support.

10 “(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
11 ‘local parent organization’ means a parent organization,
12 as defined in section 672(g), that either—

13 “(1) has a board of directors the majority of
14 whom are from the community to be served; or

15 “(2) has—

16 “(A) as a part of its mission, serving the
17 interests of individuals with disabilities from
18 such community; and

19 “(B) a special governing committee to ad-
20 minister the grant, contract, or cooperative
21 agreement, a majority of the members of which
22 are individuals from such community.

Page 305, line 7, redesignate section 673 as section
674 (and conform the table of contents accordingly).

Page 305, beginning on line 14, strike "parent and community training and information centers receiving assistance under sections 672" and inserting "parent training and information centers receiving assistance under sections ⁶⁷² ~~682~~ and ⁶⁷³ ~~688~~".

Page 305, line 18, strike "and community".

Page 306, line 20, redesignate section 674 as section 675 (and conform the table of contents accordingly).

